

India keen on early settlement of boundary-related issues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India is keen on an early settlement of all boundary-related issues with Bangladesh in accordance with the India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement of 1974, said Indian Minister of State for External Affairs EAhamed yesterday.

A total of 6.1 km of the international border between India and Bangladesh in three sectors -- Daikhata-56 (1.5 km in West Bengal), Belonia (1.6 km in Tripura) and Lathitilla-Dumabari (3 km in Assam) -- remains undemarcated, he told the Rajya Sabha.

The state minister said two Joint Boundary Working Groups were set up to resolve all pending issues relating to the implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement in 2001, which met twice -- in July 2001 and March 2002, according to a press release of the Press Information Bureau of the Ministry of External Affairs posted on a website.

Replying to a question, the state minister said that during the second meeting of the Joint Boundary working Group in New Delhi, India had offered a composite package to Bangladesh for the demarcation of the pending segments of the inter-

national boundary.

The government of India is awaiting a response from the Bangladesh, he added.

The issue was also discussed in the Foreign Office consultations held in June when the two sides agreed to continue discussions to expedite the completion of the demarcation of the land boundary.

It was decided to resume meetings of the Joint Boundary Working Groups (JBWG) to consider the boundary-related issues, he added.



PHOTO: STAR
Mehendinganj Development Action Council forms a human chain in the city yesterday demanding immediate measures to protect Mehendinganj from river erosion.

Prof Shamser Ali gets Khanbahadur Ahsanullah Gold Medal Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Dr M Shamser Ali, an eminent nuclear scientist and Islamic scholar, was awarded Khanbahadur Ahsanullah Gold Medal Award 2004 at a function in the city yesterday.

Md Ferdaous Khan, a noted educationist and writer, gave away the medal and certificate to Dr Shamser Ali for his outstanding contribution to popularising Islam and science to the common people.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Shamser Ali said science has advanced a lot in medical and technology sectors but Kashfi (spiritual) world can't be explained with science.

He said science can explain what we see but can't explain beyond that. "Everything in the world is the document of Allah but we don't get meaning of these documents all the time, when we get the meaning we devote ourselves to Allah very much," Dr Shamser said.

Presenting a keynote paper on 'Khanbahadur Ahsanullah's views to Sufism' Prof Dr Shah Kawser Mostafa Abululai of Philosophy department of Dhaka University said the essence of Islam is Sufism and the essence of Sufism is the love of Allah.

Organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission, the function was also addressed by National Prof MR Khan, Dr ARM Ali Haider of Dhaka University, and Chief Executive of the mission Kazi Raqibul Alam.

Kazi Fazlur Rahman, former advisor to the caretaker government and chairman of the mission, presided over the function.

Dr Shamser Ali is the 13th recipient of the award.

Earlier, National Prof Dr Md Ibrahim, National Prof Syed Ali Ahsan, National Prof Dewan Md Azroz, Prof Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud and Prof Dr Sirajul Islam won the award.

JUJA anniversary on Aug 18

Jahangirnagar University Journalists Association (JUJA) will celebrate its 33rd anniversary on August 18, says a press release.

On the occasion, JUJA will hold daylong programmes including rally, seminar, reunion, farewell and cultural function.

The former members of JUJA have been requested to register by August 14.

For registration and more information, all have been asked to contact the following addresses: Abdal Ahmed, chief reporter, the Daily Amar Desh, Mobile-011883958; Sarwar Hossain, chief reporter, the Daily Manabjamin, Mobile-0191347810; Kamrul Haq Tuhin, research officer, P. I. B. Mobile-0175019426; Saiful Islam Shamim, senior staff reporter, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), Mobile-011810995; Hadiujjaman Shourav, president, JUJA, Mobile 0188262868; Alauddin Ahmed, secretary, JUJA, Mobile-0176358173.

60,000 pilgrims to perform Hajj this yr

Draft Hajj policy to be placed at next cabinet meet

BSS, Dhaka

The government has formulated a draft Hajj policy which would be placed at the next cabinet meeting.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharef Hossain Shahjahan yesterday said this while presiding over a meeting at the ministry to finalise the Hajj policy for five years to be effected from 2006.

The meeting was told that 60,000 pilgrims would be sent to perform Hajj this year under public and private management.

Mahmudur Rahman said the Ministry of Civil Aviation has proposed 1,307.65 US dollar for each for airfare. Last year it was 950 US dollar. The airfare would be increased due to price hike in jet fuel. But the decision about raising of the airfare was not finalised at the meeting.

The meeting decided to finalise it after evaluation of the Hajj airfare of the neighbouring countries and what measures they have taken for transportation of the Hajj pilgrims.

It was also appraised that green (A) and blue (B) will be used as the residential category in Makkah instead of A and B as it was followed

in the past.

This year house rent at the green category has been fixed at 2,800 Saudi riyal and 1,800 Saudi riyal for the blue category. The distance of the residences from the Herem Sharif will be 800 and 1,300 meters respectively. The private pilgrim operators also have been directed to rent houses in the same district.

In the green category, the possible total cost of a Hajj pilgrim has been fixed at Tk 1,48,553 and in the green category Tk 1,31,553. The time limit for submitting a Hajj application is September 6 under the government management while September 20 under the private. The time limit may be extended for one month if necessary, the meeting said.

Religious Affairs Secretary M Rafiqul Islam and high officials of Ministry of Health, Foreign Affairs and Civil Aviation and Tourism, acting Managing Director of Bangladesh Biman Mahmudur Rahman, President of Hajj Association of Bangladesh (HAB) M Abdus Shakur, Sonali Bank officials and Hajj officials attended the meeting.

Keraniganj JCD leader killed in factional feud

BDNEWS, Dhaka

A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader was killed at Aganagar in Keraniganj yesterday following a feud between two factions of the ruling party student front over establishing supremacy in the area.

The deceased identified as Shaon Ahmed Parvez, 24, owner of a phone-shop and son of Sujat Hossain of Kadamtali village, was the vice-president of Aganagar union JCD.

Police said the criminals stabbed Parvez several times at about 11:00am at Kadamtali. He was rushed to Mitford hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead.

The conflict between two factions was going on for establishing supremacy over Kadamtali auto-

rickshaw stand and underground drug peddling.

A case was lodged with Keraniganj police station in this regard.

Banglalink Expo opens in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A six-day-long education and career exposition fair began at Bashundhara Shopping Complex in the city yesterday.

A total of 70 institutions and companies with 120 stalls are taking part in the fair titled 5th Banglalink Fdm Expo 2005.

Educational institutions from Singapore, Japan, Malaysia, China, Australia, Cyprus, Thailand, India, Ukraine, the UK and the USA have put up their stalls to attract local students.

A total of 13 local private universities are also participating in the fair.

Educational institutions are offering special discount for the visitors.

Service organisations like banks, airlines, newspapers, and a telecom company have also put up stalls to make people aware of their services.

Some local and foreign IT institutes, student counseling centres, emigration and language institutes have also joined the fair.

For the first time, ten companies have set up stalls at the fair seeking curriculum vitae from the prospective candidates for the vacant posts of their organisations.

State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon inaugurated the fair as chief guest.

He said existing 53 private universities are not enough to provide higher education in a country of 14 crore population.

There are 50 thousand private universities only in the United States, he added.

The state minister urged the authorities of private universities to upgrade their education system so that the student can get quality education staying in the country.

If local institutions can provide quality education students would not go abroad for higher education.

Mehrun N Islam, managing director of the Conference & Exhibition Management Services Ltd, was in the chair.

Dhaka's contribution to UN activities lauded

UNB, Dhaka

Ibrahim Gambari, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, lauded Bangladesh's significant contribution to UN activities, including in the area of proposed reforms, at a meeting with State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar on Wednesday.

Babar called on the Under-Secretary at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, according to a message received here yesterday.

They discussed the current global political situation including the new threats of terrorism.

He briefed Gambari about various measures undertaken by the government to improve the law and order situation.

Babar also underscored Bangladesh's commitment along with other nations of the world to the fight against terrorism.

He also met Hedi Annabi, Assistant Secretary General for UN Peacekeeping. Hedi Annabi praised Bangladesh's leading role in UN Peacekeeping and applauded its recent contributions, including providing police peacekeepers.

They discussed the possibility of Bangladesh police deployments in the Congo and in Cote d'Ivoire.

Babar told Hedi Annabi that Bangladesh would continue to support the UN in peacekeeping in Africa and elsewhere.

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UN Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury was present at the meetings.



PHOTO: STAR
Renowned journalist ABM Musa gives away TIB Investigative Journalism Award to Selim Zahid of the daily Samakal and Shakil Ahmed of ATN Bangla at a roundtable organised by the Transparency International Bangladesh at the National Press Club yesterday. Prof Muzaffer Ahmad and Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid are also seen.

Abducted businessman of Dhaka rescued in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police rescued an abducted businessman of Dhaka from Rajshahi on Wednesday night.

Zahurul Islam, a mobile businessman of Shah Ali Shopping Complex at Mirpur, went missing on July 24.

Police also arrested three abductors from Durgapur upazila of the district.

They are Shahjahan Ali, Abbas Ali and Abu Bakkar of Keshabpur village.

The abductors brought Zahurul to Rajshahi alluring him to provide smuggled and low-priced mobile sets.

They snatched away Tk 3 lakh from him and pressed him for another Tk 10 lakh in ransom. The kidnappers were arrested while they were waiting at Durgapur bus stand for Zahurul's relatives who were supposed to bring the ransom.

The arrested persons told the police that Zahurul took Tk 8 lakh from them for sending them to Saudi Arabia, but he cheated them.

So they were compelled to abduct him to get their money back. Police were investigating the case.

JP leader stabbed to death in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Jatiya Party (Ershad) leader was stabbed to death by the outlaws at Sujanagar in Pabna yesterday.

Police said Raninagar union Jatiya Party President Zainal Sarder was kidnapped by the extremists on Wednesday from village Baghulpur.

Police recovered his body from the bank of the river Padma yesterday.

WEATHER

T O D A Y

Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over the country till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also expected at places during the period. Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 33.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.6 degree Celsius at Chittagong.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:39pm today and rises at 5:30am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.0	26.4	83	93
Chittagong	31.0	24.6	88	81
Rajshahi	32.4	26.7	83	81
Khulna	31.0	26.7	83	92
Barisal	31.5	26.0	89	90
Sylhet	33.4	26.6	82	80
Cox's Bazar	30.0	25.0	96	93



PHOTO: STAR
LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan plants a sapling on the premises of the National Press Club at the inaugural ceremony of a tree plantation programme of the club yesterday.

PBCP cadre killed in Meherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A top cadre of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) was killed in Meherpur early yesterday.

He was identified as Beltu alias Tariq Raj, 36, of village Bathanpara under Gangni upazila.

According to police, an accused in 10 cases including six for murder, Beltu had been absconding since last one year in fear of reprisals from his rivals.

A gang of outlawed Janajuddho stormed into the house of Beltu at about 2:00am and dragged him out at gunpoint.

They took Beltu to a nearby road and shot him at point blank. He died instantly.

Police rushed to the spot in the morning and sent the body to Meherpur General Hospital for postmortem.

One Uttam Kumar introducing himself as a top ranking Janajuddho leader claimed responsibility for the killing.

Dhaka dist FFs urged to work unitedly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A joint meeting of Dhaka District Unit Command of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad was held on Monday at the Muktiyoddha Sangsad office in the city with its convener Alhaj Md Nurul Islam in the chair, says a press release.

Central Command Council Organising Secretary AKM Nurul Amin was the chief guest while Law, Accounts and Audit Secretary Md Nurul Islam, Office Secretary Abdul Mannan and Joint Convener of Dhaka unit Shawkat Ali were special guests at the meeting.

Md Siddiqur Rahman, Md Abdul Barek, Md Abdur Rahman and Md Nurul Islam Khan of Dhamrai upazila command, Md Jasimuddin, Md Abdul Khaleq, Md Ibrahim Khalil, Md Abdul Halim and Md Shahjahan of Savar command, Md Tofazzal Hossain, Md Khalilur Rahman and Md Shamsul Haq of Dohar command, Md Yunus Khan and Salequr Rahman of Nabagagan command and Shahjahan Faruki, Abdul Awal, Alauddin Ahmed, Mohammad Shahabuddin, Abdul Matin, Sharifuddin, Shahjajal Faruki, Ibrahim Khalil and Kamal Uddin of Keraniganj command council spoke.

Speakers at the meeting urged the upazila commanders to work unitedly to strengthen the district command council.

Obituary

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Shamsia Begum, a social worker and mother of Hemayetullah Auranga MP, passed away due to old age complications at Apollo Hospital in the city early yesterday at the age of 82.

She is survived by four sons, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Her first namaz-e-janaza was held on her Kathalbagan residence premises at 10:00am yesterday.

Later, her body was taken to her village home at Damudda upazila under Shariatpur district for burial.

Her qulkhani will be held at her village home on Sunday.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Khandokar Shamsul Huda, a freedom fighter and former director general of Bangladesh Bank (BB), Khulna office, will be held on BB Officers' Quarters premises at Banani in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhani.

Huda passed away due to cardiac arrest in Khulna on July 27 at the age of 54.